

our files. I referred to matters which have been printed and filed.

Mr. MILLER. I think we might as well take up and discuss the report of the committee on the judiciary department, as the report of the committee on the elective franchise. It is a long report, and there will be as much discussion upon that report, I presume, as upon any report before us. The report of the committee on the elective franchise is also a very important one, and I would like not only to have the presence of the chairman of that committee, but also to have the report of the minority of that committee printed in due form so that we can carefully examine it.

Mr. PURNELL. It is not usual to print minority reports, except on the journal, unless specially ordered by the house.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I recollect that in the early part of the session, when the report of the committee on the basis of representation was made, I made the inquiry of the president, whether the report of the minority of that committee would be printed, and he replied that it would, and it was so printed.

The question was then taken upon considering the report of the committee on the elective franchise, and upon a division—ayes 25, noes 16—no quorum voted.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pugh.) As there is evidently a quorum present, the question will be again taken.

Mr. STIRLING. I voted against taking up this report, because it seemed to me to be hardly right to take it up and discuss it in the absence of the chairman of that committee (Mr. Sands.) I understand that he was obliged to leave town this morning, not having any notice that this report would be taken up to-day.

Mr. STOOKBRIDGE. We have precedent for this in the report of the committee on the treasury department, which we have just disposed of. We took that up and discussed and entirely completed its consideration, in the absence of the chairman of that committee (Mr. Negley.) As to the report of the committee on the judiciary, the same gentleman now absent (Mr. Sands,) as gentlemen probably recollect, indicated his purpose to file a minority report from the committee on the judiciary, which he has not yet done.

The question being again taken upon the motion of Mr. AUDOIN, to proceed to the consideration of the report of the committee on the elective franchise, upon a division—ayes 30, noes 26—it was agreed to.

The convention accordingly proceeded to consider the report of the majority of the committee on the elective franchise, which was on its second reading.

Mr. BROWN. I move that the report of the minority be substituted for the report of the

majority of the committee on the elective franchise. The minority report, with the exception of the last two sections, corresponds with the article on that subject in the present constitution.

The minority report was then read as follows:

The minority of the committee on elective franchise, not being able to concur in all of the views of the majority, beg leave to submit the following report:

ARTICLE I.

Elective Franchise.

Section 1. Every free white male person of twenty-one years of age, and upwards, who shall have been one year next preceding the election a resident of the State, and for six months a resident of Baltimore, or of any county in which he may offer to vote, and being at the time of the election a citizen of the United States, shall be entitled to vote in the ward or election district in which he resides, in all elections hereafter to be held; and at all such elections the vote shall be taken by ballot. And in case any county or city shall be so divided as to form portions of different electoral districts for the election of congressmen, senator, delegate or other officer or officers, then to entitle a person to vote for such officer, he must have been a resident of that part of the county or city which shall form a part of the electoral district in which he offers to vote, for six months next preceding the election; but a person who shall not have acquired a residence in such county or city entitling him to vote at any such election shall be entitled to vote in the election district from which he removed, until he shall have acquired a residence in the part of the county or city to which he has removed.

Sec. 2. That if any person shall give, or offer to give, directly or indirectly, any bribe, present or reward, or any promise, or any security for the payment or delivery of money or any other thing to induce any voter to refrain from casting his vote, or forcibly to prevent him in any way from voting, or to obtain or procure a vote for any candidate or person proposed or voted for, as elector of president and vice-president of the United States, or representative in congress, or for any office of profit or trust created by the constitution or laws of this State, or by the ordinances or authority of the mayor and city council of Baltimore, the person giving or offering to give, and the person receiving the same, and any person who gives or causes to be given an illegal vote, knowing it to be so, at any election to be hereafter held in this State, shall on conviction in a court of law, in addition to the penalties now or hereafter to be imposed by law, be forever disqualified to hold any office of profit or trust, or to vote at any election thereafter.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the general